

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-30 as set forth below. Please add new claims 31-42 as set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) Industrial fabric comprising

~~a layer of batt of fibres optionally needled to a base cloth, characterized in, that during manufacture of the fabric; and~~

~~a dispersion of particulate, polymeric material has been applied to~~in the layer of batt of fibres; and

~~wherein the dispersion of particulate, polymeric material is thermally activated to provide a discontinuous layer containing a mixture of batt fibres and a polymer-batt fibre matrix.~~

2. (Currently amended) Industrial~~The industrial~~ fabric according to claim 1, characterized in, that~~wherein~~ the discontinuous layer exists in x, y and z direction within the layer of batt structurefibres.

3. (Currently amended) Industrial~~The industrial~~ fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in, that~~wherein~~ the fabric with the discontinuous layer substantially has the same permeability as ~~the~~ fabric ~~before applying~~without the discontinuous layer.

4. (Currently amended) Industrial~~The industrial~~ fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in, that~~wherein~~ the discontinuous layer further comprises at least one of organic and/orand inorganic matter.

5. (Currently amended) Industrial~~The industrial~~ fabric according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 4, characterized in, that~~wherein~~ at least one of the organic and/or~~and~~ inorganic matter is in the form of at least one of micro-fibres, or micro particles, or nano-particles, or alloy or~~and~~ blend.

6. (Currently amended) Industrial The industrial fabric according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 4, characterized in, that at least two of the at least one of the organic and/or and inorganic matters havinghave at least one of different particle sizes, and/or different melting points, and/or and different hardnesses from the particulate, polymeric material.
7. (Currently amended) Industrial The industrial fabric according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in, thatwherein the thermal activation comprises at least one of heating and/or applyingand incident irradiation.
8. (Currently amended) Industrial The industrial fabric according to claim 7claim 1, characterized in, thatwherein the thermal activation affects at least one of a chemical reaction and/or and a phase change.
9. (Currently amended) Industrial The industrial fabric according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in, thatwherein the particulate polymeric material comprises at least one of a thermoplastic and/or and thermoset particles.
10. (Currently amended) Industrial The industrial fabric according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 9, characterized in, thatwherein the thermoplastic particles are thermoplastic elastomer particles, preferably elatomeric polyurethane.
11. (Currently amended) Industrial The industrial fabric according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in, thatwherein the industrial fabric is a paper machine clothing, preferably a forming fabric or a press felt or a dryer fabric.
12. (Currently amended) Method of making a industrial fabric comprising the following steps:—steps: applying a dispersion of particulate polymeric material to a batt of fibres, whereby the batt being optionally needled to a base cloth, thermallythermally activating the dispersion of particulate polymeric material; to bond the particulate material to the fibres and to provide a layer

wherein the activated dispersion of particulate polymeric material results in a layer.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 12, characterized in, thatwherein the layer is a continuous polymer-batt fibre matrix layer.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 13, characterized in, thatwherein more than 20% weight add on of polymeric material is applied.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 12, characterized in, that the layer is a discontinuous layer containing a mixture of batt fibres and a polymer-batt fibre matrix.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 15, characterized in, thatwherein 0, 1% to 20% weight add on, preferably 1 % to 5% weight add on of polymeric material is applied.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 12, characterized in, that ~~the~~wherein a diameter of the polymeric particles applied is in the range from 0,1 to 600 microns, ~~preferably in the range from 1 to 300 microns and ideally in the range from 20 to 150 microns.~~

18. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 12, characterized in, thatwherein the dispersion comprises at least one binder, and wherein the binder is in liquid and/or solid form.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 18, characterized in, thatwherein the binder ~~includes any of the following either alone or in combination :~~ co-polyamides ~~is at least~~ one of co-polyamides, co-polyesters, PVA's, PU'sPVA, PVU and nitrile latex rubbers.

20. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 18 or 19, characterized in, thatwherein the binder is included in an amount of 0,05% to 2%, preferably in an amount of 0,1% to 0,5% based on the dispersion volume.
21. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 12, characterized in, thatwherein the dispersion comprises at least one viscosity modifier.
22. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 21, characterized in, thatwherein the viscosity modifier includes any of the following either alone or in combination : Neutonian is at least one of Neutonian, Pseudo-plastic and/or strongly pseudo plastic types, based on PU, acrylic or PA's for water-borne systems, and guar or natural gums.
23. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 21 or 22, characterized in, thatwherein the viscosity modifier is included in an amount of 0,05% to 5%, preferably 0,1% to 2%, based on the dispersion volume.
24. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 12, characterized in, thatwherein the dispersion comprises at least one anti-settling agent.
25. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 24, characterized in, thatwherein the anti-settling agent is water soluble and further comprises at least one of a polyamide, and/or polyacrylate and/or polyurethane.
26. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 25, characterized in, thatwherein the anti-settling agent is included in an amount of 0,1% to 2%, preferably 0,2% to 0,25%, based on the dispersion volume.
27. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 12, characterized in, thatwherein the dispersion comprises at least one wetting agent.

28. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 27, characterized in, thatwherein the wetting agent includes at least one of: ~~surfactants~~,of a surfactant and ethoxylated ether.

29. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 27 or 28, characterized in, thatwherein the wetting agent is included in an amount of 0,05% to 2%, preferably 0,05% to 0,25%, based on the dispersion volume.

30. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 12, characterized in, that after the thermal activation the fabric is calendered further comprising the step of calendaring the fabric.

31. (New) The industrial fabric according to claim 10, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer particles are elatomeric polyurethane.

32. (New) The industrial fabric according to claim 11, wherein the paper machine clothing is one of a forming fabric, a press felt and a dryer fabric.

33. (New) The industrial fabric according to claim 1, wherein the layer of batt of fibres are needled to a base cloth.

34. (New) The method of making a industrial fabric of claim 12, further comprising the step of needling the batt to a base cloth.

35. (New) The method of making a industrial fabric of claim 12 wherein the thermal activation of the dispersion of particulate polymeric material bonds the particulate material to the fibres.

36. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein 1 % to 5% weight add on of polymeric material is applied.

37. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein a diameter of the polymeric particles applied is in the range from 1 to 300 microns.

38. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein a diameter of the polymeric particles applied is in the range from 20 to 150 microns.

39. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the binder is included in an amount of 0, 1% to 0,5% based on the dispersion volume.

40. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the viscosity modifier is included in an amount of 0, 1% to 2% based on the dispersion volume.

41. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the anti-settling agent is included in an amount of 0,2% to 0,25% based on the dispersion volume.

42. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the wetting agent is included in an amount of 0,05% to 0,25%, based on the dispersion volume.